

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Niel F. STARKSEN

Serial No.: 10/656,797

Filing Date: September 4, 2003

For: DEVICES AND METHODS FOR  
CARDIAC ANNULUS STABILIZATION  
AND TREATMENT

Examiner: K. Dowe

Group Art Unit: 3734

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 & 1.98**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and § 1.98, Applicant submits for consideration in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b. Copies of the non-patent literature are submitted herewith. The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record.

Copies of U.S. Patent Application No. 12/132,161 and U.S. Patent Application No. 12/132,375 (documents numbered 14 and 15) on the attached Form PTO/SB/08a/b are not included herewith. This protocol conforms with the waiver of the requirement under 37 CFR §1.98 to provide copies of pending U.S. Patent Applications.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- ☐ With the application; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.
- ☐ Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114. However, if applicable, a certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1) has been provided.
- ☐ Within three months of the application filing date or before mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required. However, if applicable, a certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1) has been provided.
- ☒ After receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.
  - ☐ A fee is required. A check in the amount of \_\_\_ is enclosed.
  - ☐ A fee is required. ~~Accordingly, a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17) is attached to this submission in duplicate.~~
  - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above; accordingly, no fee is believed to be due.
- ☐ After mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.
  - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above and a check in the amount of \_\_\_ is enclosed.
  - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided above and a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17 is attached to this submission in duplicate.)

Applicant would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO/SB/08a/b, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

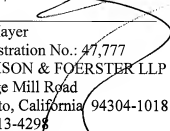
The information contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist;

(iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling;  
or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief (such as payment of a fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (p)) is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petition and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing 578492001500.

Dated: October 6, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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